Drilling operations in Mahanadi Basin

1366. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given approval to Oil India Limited for resumption of the drilling operations in the Mahanadi basin during the current year;

(b) what are the circumstances which led to the halt of the drilling operations in the said basin by the Oil India in 1988;

(c) what amount was spent during that period;

(d) whether any survey was conducted to find out the source of oil in the basin; and

(e) if so, what are the findings of the survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (e) Oil India Limited (OIL) have conducted exploratory surveys in the Mahanadi basin, offshore and onshore since 1978. In addition they have also conducted exploration in the North East Coast part of Orissa offshore. Aeromagnetic surveys, 2-Dimensional and 3-Dimensional surveys and surface geochemical surveys have been carried out. 11 exploratory wells have been drilled in the Mahanadi basin onshore and offshore areas and 4 in the North East Coast (NEC) offshore. Although traces of hydrocarbons have been found, none of these have been in commercially viable quantities. OIL are, therefore, having the data required so far re-interpreted before undertaking further exploratory drilling in NEC offshore. Upto 31st March, 1989 Rs. 220.98 crores have been spent on exploration in this basin.

Setting up of the 14th Power Survey Committee

1367. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up the 14th Power Survey Committee to review the demand of power in the country during the next decade;

(b) if so, what is the composition of the Committee;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued by Government in this regard; and

(d) by when the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir. The 14th Electric Power Survey Committee has been constituted in February, 1989.

(b) The composition of the Committee is given in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(c) No guidelines have been issued to the Committee for its work. However, the terms of reference of the Committee are (i) to review the demand projections, in detail, keeping in view the Eighth Plan proposals and (ii) to project the perspective demand upto the year 2009-10.

(d) The Committee is likely to submit its report by 31st December, 1990.